

CLAIMS

- [001] An actuating element (5) that is mounted on the electrical appliance (1) in such a way that it can pivot about a pivoting axis (19) in the switching direction of a switch (22) in order to switch a function of an electrical appliance (1) by actuating a switch (22) and comprises a slide (16) provided with an actuating surface (15) which is displaceably guided along a slide path (18) provided on the actuating element (5) in order to adjust an operating parameter, characterised in that the slide path (18) and the pivoting axis (19) extend at least substantially parallel to one another.
- [002] The actuating element according to claim 1, characterised in that the slide path (18) and the pivoting axis (19) are arranged so that they run in a plane wherein a normal to the actuating surface (15) of the slide (16) is located.
- [003] The actuating element according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterised in that the slide path (18) is arranged so that it runs above the pivoting axis (19).
- [004] The actuating element according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the pivoting axis (19) runs through two bearing eyes (7) which are constructed on the actuating element (5) in opposing tabs (6) between which the slide path (18) runs and engage in the two pivot pins (8) disposed on the electrical appliance (1).
- [005] The actuating element according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterised in that the slide (16) is mounted on a surface section (13) of the actuating element (5) which extends starting from the pivoting axis (19) away from the switch (22) in such a manner that a force introduced via the actuating surface (15) of the slider (16) is introduced into the actuating element (5) in the direction opposite to the switching direction.
- [006] The actuating element according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterised in that the slide (16) is mounted on a surface section (10) of the actuating element (5) which extends starting from the pivoting axis (19) in the direction of the switch (22) and the

actuating surface (15) of the slide (16) is embodied in position and shape in such a manner that the force introduced into the actuating surface (15) runs through the pivoting axis (19).

- [007] The actuating element according to claim 6, characterised in that the actuating surface (15) of the slide (16) is embodied as flat and has an inclination with respect to the surface section (10, 13) of the actuating element (5) at which a force introduced into the actuating surface (15) acts in a direction which intersects the pivoting axis (19).
- [008] The actuating element according to any one of claims 1 to 7, characterised in that the slide path (18) is predefined by a slit-shaped opening (14) in the actuating element (5) through which the slide (16) is guided along its slide path (18) on the actuating element (5).
- [009] The actuating element according to claim 8, characterised in that in order to transfer its movement along the slide path (18) onto a slide regulator (28, 30, 32) disposed on the electrical appliance (1), the slide (16) is connected to an arm (23) which acts on the slide regulator (28, 30, 32).
- [010] The actuating element according to claim 9, characterised in that the arm (23) projects through the slit-shaped opening (14) and is supported on the electrical appliance (1) to intercept forces acting in the direction of switching, introduced via the actuating surface (15) of the slide (16).
- [011] The actuating element according to claim 9 or 10, characterised in that the arm (23) has a projection (26) which engages between two entraining elements (27) connected to the slide regulator (28, 30, 32) which transmit the movement of the slide (16) along the slide path (18) onto the slide regulator (28, 30, 32).
- [012] The actuating element according to claim 11, characterised in that the entraining elements (27) have a minimum size at which the projection (26) of the arm (23) in each pivoting position

- [013] The actuating element according to claim 11 or claim 12, characterised in that the entraining elements (27) are provided on a pivoted link (28) which sits on a spindle (30) mounted on the electrical appliance (1) which converts the sliding movement of the pivoted link (28) into a rotary movement to actuate a rotary potentiometer (32).
- [014] The actuating element according to any one of claims 9 to 13, characterised in that the arm (23) has a spring-elastic locating lug (24) supported on the inside of the actuating element (5) which secures the arm (23) of the slide (16) inserted in the slit-shaped opening (14) from outside the actuating element (5) against pulling out.
- [015] The actuating element according to any one of claims 1 to 14, characterised in that a pre-tensioning element (33) is provided, which pre-tensions the actuating element (5) in the direction opposite to the switching direction with a force larger than that required to displace the slide (16), which is introduced into the actuating element (5) in the switching direction.
- [016] An electrical household appliance, in particular a vacuum cleaner (1) provided with an actuating element (5) according to any one of claims 1 to 15.